

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

Yoshihiro FUKANO et al.

U.S. Serial No. 10/706,945

Group Art Unit: 3679

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Title: TUBE JOINT

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By, Paul A. Guss

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RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated January 4,
2005, the following amendments and remarks are submitted.

Amendments to the claims appear on pages 2 to 5 of this
paper, with the applicant's remarks commencing on page 6.